

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 146522
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:HHSANDERS:HE

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

PM - MR. GELB

DOD/OSD - MR. MCGIFFERT

S/S - O:WFROPE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 146522

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IS, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY REQUESTS

1. AS YOU KNOW, AMBASSADOR DINITZ WITH BAR-ON, CIECHANOVER AND BENTSUR, CAME IN TO SEE THE SECRETARY LATE JUNE 6. MCGIFFERT OF DEFENSE AND GELB WERE PRESENT FOR PART OF THE CONVERSATION, AND ATHERTON AND SAUNDERS WERE PRESENT THROUGHOUT. SUBJECTS COVERED WERE STATUS OF ISRAEL'S MILITARY SUPPLY REQUESTS, THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. AFTER THE MEETING, SECRETARY ASKED SAUNDERS TO CALL BAR-ON TO DISCUSS ONE ADDITIONAL SUBJECT WHICH SECRETARY HAD MEANT TO RAISE REGARDING TREATMENT OF PRISONERS FROM THE WEST BANK. THIS TELEGRAM REPORTS BRIEFLY THE ISRAELI APPROACH ON THE MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTION. OTHER SUBJECTS DEALT WITH SEPTELS.

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2. DINITZ INTRODUCED QUESTION OF MILITARY SUPPLY BRIEFLY BY RECALLING THAT ISRAELIS IN FEBRUARY 1978 HAD SUBMITTED A PRIORITY LIST OF ITEMS FROM LARGER MATMON C LIST AND SOME ANSWERS HAD BEEN PROVIDED DURING WEIZMAN'S VISIT. HE POINTED OUT THAT SOME MAJOR ITEMS ARE STILL PENDING AND OFFERED TO RESPOND IF THE U.S. NEEDS MORE INFORMATION

REGARDING ANY OF THESE REQUESTS. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCGIFFERT UNDERTOOK TO RESPOND TO THE ISRAELIS ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED FROM THEM.

3. CIECHANOVER POINTED OUT THAT DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE AIRCRAFT SALES, THERE WAS TALK OF AN ADDED 20 F-15'S. HE WONDERED WHEN ISRAEL WOULD RECEIVE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF APPROVAL OF THESE AIRCRAFT AND WHEN DELIVERY SCHEDULES MIGHT BE DISCUSSED. DINITZ ADDED WITH REGARD TO F-16'S HIS HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD LOOK AT THE QUESTION OF AN INCREASE TO 90 AND THEN THE 60 ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO MEET THE TOTAL ISRAELI REQUIREMENT. MCGIFFERT RESPONDED THAT WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND BETTER THE RELATIONSHIP OF THIS REQUEST TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KFIR AIRCRAFT.

4. CIECHANOVER ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF A PROPOSED UNDERSTANDING ON CO-PRODUCTION AND R AND D COOPERATION. MCGIFFERT UNDERTOOK TO RESPOND ON THAT POINT.

5. CIECHANOVER INDICATED ISRAELI DESIRE TO STUDY THE F-18 AIRCRAFT, AND MCGIFFERT PROMISED TO ARRANGE A BRIEFING ON GENERAL PERFORMANCE WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT BEYOND THAT.

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6. CIECHANOVER ASKED FOR A RESPONSE ON THE QUESTION OF ISRAEL'S SELLING KFIR AIRCRAFT TO TAIWAN. HE SAID ISRAEL HAS A LETTER OF INTENT THAT THE ROC IS INTERESTED IN 60 AIRCRAFT. WE SAID WE WOULD BE BACK TO THEM ON THIS QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE146522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HHSAUNDERS:HE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-0744
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780675/aaaacmq1.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7c7428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2412744
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY SUPPLY REQUESTS
TAGS: MASS, IS, US
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7c7428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014